



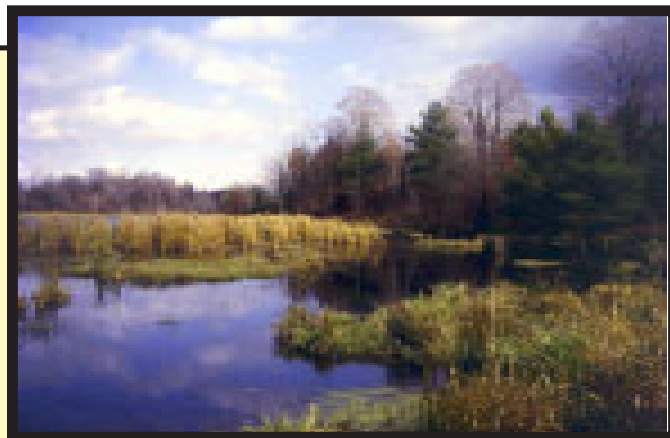
**U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service**

# **Partners for Fish and Wildlife Program**

## *Voluntary Habitat Restoration on Private Lands*

### **PARTNERS PROGRAM PRINCIPLES**

- ◆ **voluntary**
- ◆ **private and tribal lands**
- ◆ **incentive-based**
- ◆ **habitat restoration**
- ◆ **application of state-of-the-art techniques**
- ◆ **leveraging resources through partnerships**
- ◆ **collaboration of public and private resources**
- ◆ **combination of environmental, economic and social benefits**
- ◆ **natural resource management teaching and learning projects**
- ◆ **keep common species common and restore habitat for declining species**



partnerships with over 3,000 private landowners to restore valuable fish and wildlife habitats. The FY

In 1987, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service began a voluntary partnership program with landowners interested in restoring wetlands and other important fish and wildlife habitats on their own lands. The Partners for Fish and Wildlife Program provides financial and technical assistance to private landowners through voluntary cooperative agreements.

State resource agencies work closely with the Service to help establish priorities and identify focus areas. The restoration of degraded wetlands, native grasslands, streams, riparian areas, and other habitats to conditions as close to natural is emphasized. The program's philosophy is to work proactively with private landowners for the mutual benefit of declining Federal trust species and the interests of the landowners involved.

Usually, a dollar-for-dollar cost share is achieved by working with

landowners and a host of nationally based and local entities (e.g., Federal, State, and local agencies, soil and water conservation districts, and private conservation organizations). Landowners sign an agreement to retain the restoration projects for the life of the agreement (at least 10 years) and otherwise retain full control of their land

### **FISCAL YEAR 2001**

Fiscal year 2001 was another productive year for the Partners Program. The Service established

2001 habitat restoration budget was \$25 million, and the Service and its partners restored and improved the following fish and wildlife habitats:

- 48,800 acres of wetlands;
- 334,800 acres of native prairie and grasslands;
- 990 miles of riparian corridors, streambanks, and instream aquatic habitat
- 100 fish passage barriers were removed; and
- 300 miles of streams were reopened to fish passage.

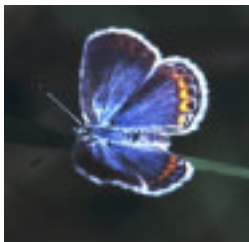
### **RESTORATION ACCOMPLISHMENTS - 1987 TO 2001**

- ◆ **574,800 acres of wetlands;**
- ◆ **884,800 acres of prairie, native grassland, and other uplands;**
- ◆ **4,190 miles of riparian and in-stream habitat; and**
- ◆ **27,000 landowner agreements.**

## AWARD WINNING PARTNERSHIP

The Fish and Wildlife Service's Partners for Fish and Wildlife program has been actively restoring habitat on private lands in Wisconsin for the Federally endangered Karner blue butterfly since 1998. Observations conducted during the Karner blues' first flight of 2000, confirmed that Karner blues are using a restoration site. The property, located on private lands in east central Wisconsin, was near a known Karner blue population. The Partners Program restoration activities are focusing on privately-owned lands with the greatest potential for habitat restoration.

On September 16, 2000, the Service's Wisconsin Private Lands Office and the Green Bay Ecological Services Field Office received a Conservation Partner Award from The Nature Conservancy. ❖



*Left: The Karner blue butterfly is an endangered grassland insect. Partners for Fish and Wildlife projects are reestablishing habitat for this small butterfly.*



*Right: The Partners for Fish and Wildlife Program is a voluntary program that helps landowners, tribes, and schools restore and improve many different types of fish and wildlife habitat on their own lands.*

*Left: Streams and river banks are also restored by the Partners program. The Little Tennessee River in North Carolina was trampled by cattle and silt laden (top photo). Restoration and fencing have improved it's habitat value for native fish species and other aquatic organisms (bottom photo).*

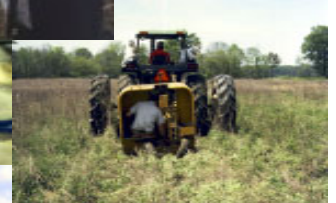
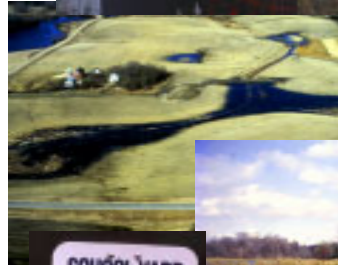
## LANDOWNERS SAY IT BEST!

*"This program has allowed us to develop 143 acres of our ranch into wildlife habitat. Without the cost share benefits provided by the program, we would not have been able to accomplish this significant restoration of badly needed habitat for our wildlife." Thomas C. Gigliotti, Biggs, CA.*

*"The Partners for [Fish and] Wildlife Program has allowed me to restore wetland habitat on two sites. The projects on my property stimulated several of my neighbors to become more involved in wisely managing their own wetland areas. In this manner, several hundred more acres were positively impacted by the program." George Franklin, Jr., Rayville, LA.*

*"The relatively small amount of money appropriated to this program is establishing much needed wildlife habitat in my home state of Oklahoma. I am willing to set aside a portion of my property for this very worthwhile program." Daniel L. Hauser, Tulsa, OK.*

*"This is an excellent program which offers private landowners with restorable wetlands and/or endangered species habitat an opportunity to receive cost share funds and maintain these public resources." Janice Nicholls, Swannanoa, NC.*



For more information about the Partners for Fish and Wildlife Program, contact the Division of Fish and Wildlife Management and Habitat Restoration, Branch of Habitat Restoration at: 703/358 2201, or visit us on the Internet at:  
<http://partners.fws.gov/>

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service  
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